

GPASI

the Greater Pittsburgh Aquarium Society, Inc.
(serving hobbyists in the Pittsburgh area since 1947)



fInformation

Next Meeting - October 25th, 2002

Dr. Robert J. Goldstein

Bettas

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Contact the newsletter.

Please send your article submissions or comments to: **GPASI Newsletter** c/o Terrence S. Trasatti, Jr P.O. Box 651 Ellsworth, PA 15331 ph. 724-239-5042 Or send e-mail to tstrasatti@aol.com

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Membership Info:

DUES are \$20 a year per family or street address. <http://www.pittsburgh.com/community/groups/GPASI/> Want to become a member? Write to us or see Steve Gibbs at the next meeting.

2002 Meeting Dates:

• Oct 25 • Nov 22

General Meetings are held at the **Pittsburgh Civic Garden Center** in Mellon Park at the Corner of **5th and Shady** Avenues.

DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM

The **Board of Directors** meets the Monday following the general meeting at 7pm at Elmer's Aquarium in Monroeville. *All members and suggestions for discussion are welcome.*

Contact a board member for meeting confirmation.

***** PLEASE READ *****

The **FinFormation** newsletter is now available on-line at <http://shene.killi.net/gpasi/Finformation.html>

>> Cover Art by: **Laura Cronkhite**

Announcement: Our regular editor (who has done an outstanding job of this newsletter, if must say so myself) was out of town because of other's hot air. Terrence was at some kind of International Hot Air Balloon event in Albuquerque the beginning of the month. Any typos or misquotes, aren't his fault!!! Comments on this issue should be addressed to "Water" Cronkhite.

***NEXT MEETING: October 25, 2002
Dr. Robert J. Goldstein will be speaking on Bettas.***

When asked for a biographical sketch, Dr. Goldstein provided the following:

For a bio, I am originally from NY City. I did my BS at Brooklyn College, my MS in parasitology at Florida State U., and my Ph.D. in parasitology and microbiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. Later I taught biochemistry and microbiology at Emory University in Atlanta for six years before joining an environmental consulting firm for 11 years working on water quality impacts to fish and fish larvae of cooling water systems at power plants. I started my own environmental company in 1985 primarily to prepare environmental impact assessments for government infrastructure projects (landfills, reservoirs, water intake structures, wastewater treatment plants, sewer and water lines, etc.). My first writing for the hobby was for Al Klee's Aquarium Illustrated in the early 70s, and I later wrote for The Aquarium, TFH (cichlid and killifish columns), Marine Aquarist, FAMA, Aquarium Fish Magazine, and several foreign publications. I also write a sportfishing column in NC, and have written for Field and Stream and other sportfishing magazines. My books include :

- Cichlids, 1970, TFH Publications, 254 p.
- Introduction to the Cichlids, 1970, TFH Publications, 126 p.
- Anabantoids, 1971, TFH Publications, 160 p.
- Diseases of Aquarium Fishes, 1971, TFH Publications, 126 p.
- Cichlids of the World, 1973, TFH Publications, 382 p.
- Fakta om Cichlider, 1976, Lademann (Swedish) Publications, 128 p.
- Ciklider fran hela Varlden, 1978, I.C.A. (Danish) Publications, 110 p.
- Buntbarsche fürs Aquarium, 1975, Kosmos‑Franckh'sche (German) Verlag, 70 p.
- Cichliden, 1978, Thieme‑Zutphen (Dutch) Publications, 68 p.
- Pier Fishing in NC, 1978, John F. Blair Publisher, 126 p.
- Coastal Fishing in the Carolinas, 1986, John F. Blair, Publisher, 198 p.
- Offshore Fishing from Virginia to Texas, 1988, John F. Blair, Publisher, 248 p.
- Marine Reef Aquarium Handbook, 1997, Barron's Educational Series, 198 p.
- American Aquarium Fishes, 2000, Texas A&M University Press, 428 p.
- Bettas, Barron's Educational Series, 2001.

and Angelfish, Barron's Educational Series, 2001.

My interests range from breeding anabantoids to natives to marines. I'm a member of the International Anabantoid Association and the American Killifish Association, and have been involved in various clubs for decades as a member, officer, founder, or just a lazybones. My basement fish room has about a hundred aquaria from 2 to 135 gallons, and my house has a backup generator. I've visited the Pittsburgh club many times, and if I don't learn a lot from your expert breeders on this trip, it will be the first time.



***AND THE MEETING AFTER
THAT: November 22, 2002
Our own Past President, Hank
Marzina will talk on live foods.***

Watch this space: Soon we'll let you know the details for the GPASI holiday party.

Message From the President ~ Mike "I like wheels and fins" Solito

Hi everyone

This months message is simple. Why hasn't the presidents DISCUS spawned??? He has tried many methods but to no avail. Aren't they suppose to spawn when given such pampering? All those black worms, live adult brine shrimp, and flake food of every imaginary kind. How will this bring new life to my BAP honors. Why can't they behave like my show bettas and give me spawn after spawn. Doesn't this rant sound like I'm talking about my children? I surely have slipped over the edge.

O well back to reality. The auction that took place this month was not good. Few members showed up and out of town participation was at an all time low. Everyone has given me advice on how to make the Pittsburgh auction's successful. I want to thank all the members and especially the board of directors for coming to the auction and making it a fun event. To make it bigger and better we must ALL come out and support planned events. In the final analysis the reason the Auction didn't do well is because we didn't organize it well ,we didn't get the auction leaflets out in time and no one took responsibility for its success. For this I will take the rap. That's why it didn't work.

The 56th Annual Aquarium Fish Show will again take place at the Palace Inn on April 25, 26, and 27th 2003 . The local Killifish club "PAKA" Pittsburgh Area Killifish Association will be having a local show together with our show. Ross will be the spokesperson from PAKA and together we hope to make this the biggest and best fish show Pittsburgh has ever seen. This will be a AKA American Killifish Assoc. sanctioned event. The show committee has informed me that their will be 56 classes of freshwater fish at the show. Sponsorship will be \$25 per class . Please help us make this the greatest show by sponsoring a class.

GPASI Member Article

Corydoras burgessi

Eric Bodrock

www.alloddballaquatics.com

C. burgessi resembles Corydoras adolfoi and Corydoras duplicareus in color scheme; noticeably possessing the bright orange "cap" on the top of their head, just in front of the dorsal fin and behind the eyes. This intense orange marking resembles a bar or a teardrop of color rather than a patch of color as in the others mentioned. They lack the "skunk stripe" but do have a dark black mask concealing their eyes. There is also a large black spot that fills most of the dorsal fin. This spot also runs into the top of their silver/white body, just in front of the orange "cap". The body shape of C. burgessi, with the high back and thick full body, reminds you of a Brochis rather than a Corydoras catfish. Females are easy to distinguish in adults by their fuller, plump bellies. Both male and females can reach a good size, almost three inches in total length.

They aren't timid at all, being very active swimmers that even seem to "strut" as they move thru the aquarium.

My thirty-five adult fish were received direct from Germany. I'm assuming that they were all wild fish, being that they were fully grown adults and knowing that they aren't commonly bred or mass- eggs sacs, the same size as the eggs, which takes almost three days for the fry to absorb! I'd say the hatch rate was fifty – sixty percent. Raising the fry presents no problems. First foods added after their egg sac was absorbed were sponge filter dirt, squeezed form a seasoned sponge filter, and microworms. Live baby brine shrimp was added soon after. Fry grow rather quickly, nearly an inch in ten weeks.

Since the first couple of spawns, I have observed several interesting factors that I feel might help someone in spawning these striking Corys. Importantly, I have found that they will deposit almost all their eggs in a sunken yarn mop lying on the bottom of the tank if offered. This provides a quick, easy way to remove the eggs by simply removing the mop and it prevents the eggs from being damaged while being handled. They don't seem to bother with eggs in the mop, but eggs deposited on the glass will usually be eaten during the day. Also have found out that they prefer to spawn during the daytime. I had a spawn of them one night, but it was a night that I forgot to turn off the overhead lights in the fishroom. So artificial light can act as daylight to encourage spawning. Many Corys are triggered to spawn when storm fronts move into the area, but every spawning I can think of with C. burgessi has been on mild, pleasant days with calm weather. Their spawns aren't very large, usually numbering fifty to seventy eggs. I have noticed that different females will spawn several days apart from each other but I haven't found a pattern as to why.....yet!

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JUST LET ONE OF US KNOW,
WE'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU
AS PART OF THE TEAM.** ~

GPASI Member Article

Cold Water Fish Room

Bill Shenefelt

I wanted to expand my fish room (to let me see the fish and to have both cold and warmer water species of killies), so I took over the integral single car garage and built a real one outside. Was not big enough for a car anyway.

I had three objectives: (1) cold water room, (2) Front view and eye level – so as not to have to lie on the floor), and (3) ease of maintenance.

To allow temperature control, I insulated the room on the outside wall with blue board Styrofoam, and installed a thick insulated garage door. I installed an 8 k BTU/hr air conditioner in the cellar window. Since I did not have enough warm water space, I installed heaters in a few tanks to allow me to move warmer water killies into a “viewable” setting.

My stand design was to provide (a) face view, (b) viewable height, and (3) accessibility for egg picking and cleaning.

Ross Cronkhite had a stand design that fit the bill, except his was 3 tanks high (Me bein’ a bit shorter than him, I went for a 2 tank high version, and put a shelf low to house egg boxes. I took a nasty fall onto my side in the other room while reaching an upper tank standing on a real stable stepping stool (ok, so it was an old slide projector with the adjustment leg up-OSHA never saw it and I’d deny it)

Lighting in the new room is provided only by room lights, ceiling fluorescents, and the standard for killiekeepers, a good flashlight or two.

For ease of maintenance, I plumbed in RO water from the primary fish room via 1/2 inch PVC. I provided 3 ceiling drops with plastic valves and quick disconnects for water changes, but since the main supply is in the warm water room, I will be filling a 32 gallon Rubbermaid garbage can which will house a pond pump to return the water to the plumbing for distribution once it has cooled to the temperature of the new room. Just some re-valving and another pump-no big deal.

Air is supplied via 1.25 inch PVC from my 1/3 hp blower. Costs too much to run, but wow, plenty of air and pressure!

A 9 ft plastic hose is attached to the appropriate quick disconnect for filling any tank in the room. Emptying is done into 1 inch PVC which goes out the basement wall to my downspout piping (prevents overwork of my lousy septic tank drainage field).

The room is maintained at 68 degrees within a degree or two. For slightly warmer or cooler water, I just select an elevation or modify tank covers. Finally, my ogoense are laying well, the Diaptrons seem happy enough and the warm water fish can remove their sweaters and start to work!



Spawning "Betta splendens"

William E Shreves III

age 13 at time of writing

Reprinted from the Youngstown Aquarist

Official Bi-Monthly Publication of the Youngstown Area Tropical Fish Society

I had been trying to spawn the Betta off and on for some time with no luck. I tried a couple of different ways and could never get anything to happen. At our October club meeting JoAnne Toven gave a presentation on how she breeds her bettas. I got excited and went out and got a new male and female betta. I picked a blue Male and a blue female because I thought they looked different.

I set up a 10 gallon tank about 3/4 of the way full put a submersible heater in the tank and got the temp. up to 80 deg. I put a yarn mop in the tank as cover for the female. I used a 2 liter pop bottle with holes I melted in it for water to flow through cut top off to be just above the water line. I taped a styrofoam 20 oz. coffee cup cut in half long ways to the middle of the front of the tank. I placed the female in the pop bottle (had to add a rock in the bottom to keep it from floating). I put the male in the tank. In 2 days the male had a bubble nest and everything looked like it was going good. I released the female and waited for the spawn to start. By morning the male and chased the female behind the mop and had ruined his bubble nest.

I then did a water change on the tank and put the female back in the pop bottle. The next few days nothing happened. Then one morning when I got up to go to school the male had a bigger bubble nest and the female had jumped out of the pop bottle. I thought this would be another failure but as I watched I saw the female swim under the cup where the bubble nest was and the male would squeeze her. She would then float limp for a few minutes. She then would swim back to the mop while the male would collect the eggs in his mouth and spit them in the nest. I saw them do this about 3 times and I had to go to school. I hoped they would be OK for the day.

When I got home from school I took the female out and put her in another tank she looked beat up. I could see the eggs in the bubble nest and the male was swimming under it in circles. The eggs hatched in 2 days and on the 3rd day I removed the male. He looked like he was getting tired of collecting all the babies and putting them back in the nest. I started to feed the fry baby brineshrimp the 4th day. You could see their bellies orange so I new they were eating good. I also on the fourth day duct taped a piece of plastic bag over the top of the tank. I left a flap to open to feed them.

I did not do any water changes till after 1 month to avoid giving them a chill. After that I did a 10% change every week. I now have about 100 betta fry at 60 days. Some of them are really pretty. They are all blue and some have red tips to their fins. I started giving the fry some fine ground flake food at about 1 month.

Thank you JoAnne for giving a good demo on your way of doing bettas it worked for me. Also at the meeting some one brought up the new moon as a good time to spawn bettas. Well it was November 20, 1998 that mine spawned. A NEW MOON !!!

Acknowledgements :

GPASI acknowledges the cooperation of the Pittsburgh Marine Aquarium Society with a big

Thank You
Thank You



Our two clubs are sharing expenses to bring Dr. Goldstein to Pittsburgh. After speaking at our meeting on Friday night, October 25, he will be speaking at the PMAS meeting on Saturday.

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